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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/586,129

07/17/2006

Takayasu Ohara

MAT-8869US

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09/02/2009

RATNERPRESTIA

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EXAMINER

DANG, KET D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/586,129	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OHARA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> KET D. DANG	<b>Art Unit</b> 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 2005-247120.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/17/2006, 09/22/2008</u> .                                  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in Japan Parent Application No. 2005-247120, filed on August 29, 2005.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Haniya et al. (US Pub. No. 20040261562 A1) in view of Takayanagi (JP 408057648A.)
4. Regarding claim 1, Haniya et al. disclose an industrial robot (abstract) capable of being used in a floor-mounted state (see figure 1), comprising: a base for installation 1 (fig. 1); a first arm rotatably attached to the base 2 (fig. 1); a second arm being pivotable with respect to the first arm 4 (fig. 1); a third arm pivotably attached to the second arm 5 (fig. 1); a wire feeder 11 (fig. 1) provided to the second arm and being rotatable around a rotation axis (see R-axis rotation in figure 1); a welding torch 9 (fig. 1); and a torch cable 12 (fig. 1) for feeding a welding wire to the welding torch, the torch cable coupled to the wire feeder (page 2, paragraph 0035); a feeder cable for electrically coupling between an inside of the industrial robot and the wire feeder, wherein the rotation axis is

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composed of a rotating hollow pipe shaft, and the feeder cable passes through the rotating hollow pipe shaft (page 1, paragraphs 0006, 0010, 0011; page 3, paragraph 0044; a rotation fixing part for fixing an rotation angle of the wire feeder (page 1, paragraph 0013), wherein at least a part of the wire feeder is located on the second arm (see figure 1 for wire feeder is part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> arm (referent number 4 of the prior art in figure 1)); a fourth arm 3 (fig. 1) pivotably attached to the first arm and the second arm; wherein the fourth arm 3 (fig. 1) is attached to one side face of the first arm and one side face of the second arm (see figure 2 to see the 4<sup>th</sup> arm (reference number 3 in the prior art) is attached in a cantilevered manner), and the wire feeder 11 (fig. 2) is located opposite to the fourth arm relatively to a rotating axis of the first arm; except for a ceiling-mounted state; a fixing device including the rotation axis and provided to the second arm; wherein a position to which the wire feeder is attached is offset to a position apart from the third arm. However, Takayanagi teaches a ceiling-mounted state (see figure 1); a fixing device 76 (fig. 1) including the rotation axis and provided to the second arm; wherein a position to which the wire feeder is attached is offset to a position apart from the third arm (see figure 2 for the position of the wire feeder is attached to the side of the 3<sup>rd</sup> arm). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Haniya's reference, to include a ceiling-mounted state, fixing device, and the position of the wire feeder, as suggested and taught by Takayanagi, for the purpose of providing the flexibility of mounting either on the floor, on the ceiling, or on the wall.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Maeguchi et al. (US 6,917,177 B2) disclose robot arm mechanism. And Terada et al. (US 6,279,413 B1) disclose articulated robot.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KET D. DANG whose telephone number is (571) 270-7827. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoang Tu can be reached on (571) 272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KET D DANG/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3742  
/TU B HOANG/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3742